

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Serial No.: 10/652,207
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q77255

REMARKS

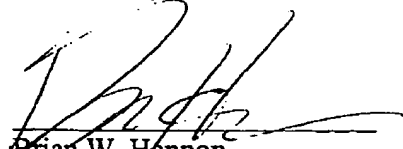
Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1-10 are rejected, and claims 11 and 12 are objected to. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda (U.S. Patent No. 6,346,011) in view of Takahashi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,206,718). Claims 11 and 12 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, and without prejudice, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 11; cancelled claim 11; and amended claim 12 to be dependent upon claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that all claims now pending should be allowable. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the application should be passed to issuance at the earliest convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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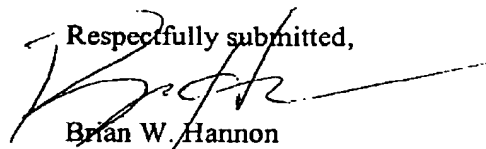
Date: February 24, 2006

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sir:

I hereby certify that the above identified correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Felix O. Figueroa at the Patent and Trademark Office on February 24, 2006 at (571) 273-8300.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian W. Hannon